WOODSY OWL ON CAMPING

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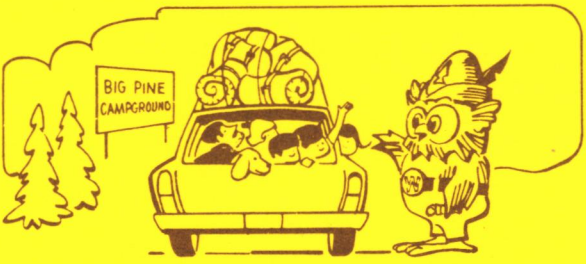
So, you are going camping! Fine! Here are a few tips to help make your trip more enjoyable.

PLAN AHEAD

Find out as much as you can about the area where you will be camping. Obtain maps if possible. Know campground locations and types of camping accommodated (tents, campers, trailers). Make reservations or have an alternative plan. Find out what facilities (water, toilets, fireplace, etc.) are provided. This will help in planning what to take.

AT THE CAMPGROUND

Select a site. Consider: privacy afforded, distance from facilities, and ease of entry and exit. If using a tent, look for a level, well-drained site. Bring tent poles and pegs, also foam pads or air mattresses. Cutting trees, shrubs, or branches is forbidden at most campgrounds. Check bulletin boards for rules and procedures.



CAMPGROUND COURTESY

Respect the rights and privacy of other campers. Place trash in receptacles or take it out with you. Avoid making loud noises at night. Treat signs, tables, and other facilities as if they were your own. Leave your campsite the way you would like to find it.

KEEP THE WATER SUPPLY CLEAN

Carry water used for washing yourself or your dishes away from the source of drinking water. Dispose of soapy water, grease, and other waste away from lakes, springs, or streams. Boil drinking water unless you are certain it is safe. Use toilets provided and help keep them clean.

HELP PRESERVE SOIL AND PLANTS

Use only designated paths and trails. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy. If permitted, and you dig holes for any reason, replace soil and sod, then tamp well. Avoid disturbing soil in fragile areas such as stream banks or mountain meadows.

FOOD PREPARATION AND STORAGE

Use of a portable stove can be invaluable on a camping trip. If you use firewood or charcoal for cooking, you may have to carry them with you, since wood is not always available at campsites. Use the fireplaces provided. Do not leave any fire unattended. Put fires out by soaking with water and stirring with a stick, trowel, or other tool.

Do not leave food out while away from camp. Keep all foodstuffs together and store in a safe place. In bear country, put food in car or other vehicle.

ACCIDENTS CAN RUIN YOUR TRIP

Guard against them! Familiarize yourself with hazards of the area such as poisonous snakes, plants, and insects; rockslides; or dangerous animals. Know how to cope with them. Keep small children from wandering away unattended.

MISHAPS DO HAPPEN

Know what to do if one should occur. Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. Know how to get in touch with police, park, or forest rangers, or others who can help in an emergency.

LEAVE YOUR TRIP PLAN

Notify a neighbor, friend, or member of your family of your planned travel route. Should your plans change, be sure to let someone know. Be sure someone knows how to get in touch with you should it become necessary.

GIVE A HOOT! DON'T POLLUTE!

Recycle these guidelines by giving them to a friend.

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